

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

Forest Department- Diversion of 126.71 Ha. of Forest Land in Chopra RF of Bellampalli Division for Khairaguda OCP (in addition to 29.85 Ha of forest land already diverted in 2000) in favour of M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) - Permission accorded- Orders issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (FOR.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No. 100

Dated:27-08-2011.

Read the following:-

1. From PCCF, A.P, Hyderabad, Lr.No.28858/2007-F1, Dt:09.11.2008.
2. State Government letter No.9456/For.I (1)/2007, Dated:24.12.2008.
3. From GOI, MoEF, New Delhi, Lr.No.F.No.8-28/94-FC, Dt.13.11.2009.
4. State Government letter No.9456/For.I (1)/2007, Dated:22.10.2010.
5. From GOI, MoEF, New Delhi, Lr.No.F.No.8-28/94-FC, Dt.01.07.2011.

ORDER:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad in his letter 1st read above had submitted a proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 126.71 Ha. of Forest Land in Chopra RF of Bellampalli Division for Khairaguda OCP (in addition to 29.85 Ha of forest land already diverted in 2000) in favour of M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and requested to forward the same to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests for their approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. The said proposal has been sent to Government of India for their approval under Forest (C) Act, 1980 vide State Government letter 2nd read above. The Government of India in their letter 3rd read above, have accorded their approval in principal (Stage.I) for the proposal, subject to compliance of certain conditions. The State Government vide letter 4th read above, have furnished compliance report on the conditions stipulated by the Government of India.

3. Government of India in their letter 5th read above, have accorded their approval (Stage.II) under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 126.71 Ha. of Forest Land in Chopra RF of Bellampalli Division for Khairaguda OCP (in addition to 29.85 Ha of forest land already diverted in 2000) in favour of M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited, subject to certain conditions.

4. Government after careful examination of the proposal, hereby accord permission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad for diversion of 126.71 Ha. of Forest Land in Chopra RF of Bellampalli Division for Khairaguda OCP (in addition to 29.85 Ha of forest land already diverted in 2000) in favour of M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited, subject to the following conditions:

1. The legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department on equivalent forest land from the funds realized from the user agency.
3. The non-forest land transferred and mutated in the name of State Forest Department for raising Compensatory afforestation shall be declared as Reserved Forest. The Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, State Government of Andhra Pradesh shall report compliance within six months

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4. Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the user agency.
5. Fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area (7.5 meters strip all along the outer boundary of the mining lease area as recommended by the State Government) shall be done at the project cost. Besides this, afforestation on degraded forest land, to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and a half times the area under safety zone i.e. 7.5 mt, shall also be done at the project cost.
6. Wherever possible and technically feasible, the user agency shall undertake afforestation measures in the blanks within the lease area, as well as along the roads outside the lease area diverted under this approval, in consultation with the State Forest Department at the project cost.
7. The user agency shall take up afforestation in the forest areas surrounding mining lease in 100 Meters radius from the lease boundary wherever density of growth is less than 0.4 and protect it till life of the Project in consultation with State Forest Department. As the nearby area is having good wildlife and good density of growth the user agency shall take up habitation improvement programmes as per plan prepared and approved by the Chief Wildlife warden and maintain the area till life of the project. The cost of this habitat improvement plan shall be deposited with the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
8. De-silting of the village tanks falling within 5 Kms radius from the lease boundary shall be taken up by the user agency at regular intervals.
9. Following activities shall be undertaken by the user agency at the project cost:
 - (a) Proper mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of streams shall be prepared and implemented.
 - (b) Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds to arrest soil erosion.
 - (c) Construction of check dams, retention / toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour along all the decks of the overburdens.
 - (d) The areas shall be reclaimed keeping in view the international practice of stabilizing the dumps by grading / benching so that angles of repose (normally less than 28° at any given place) are maintained.
 - (e) The top soil management plan should be strictly adhered to and
 - (f) Any tree felling shall be done only when it is absolutely necessary and unavoidable, and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
10. Demarcation of mining lease area will be done on the ground at project cost using four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars with serial numbers, forward and back bearings and distance from pillar to pillar.
11. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.

12. The approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is subject to the clearance under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986.

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13. The period of permission for lease under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be co-terminus with the existing mining lease or 20 years whichever is less, subject to possession of valid lease by user agency under the MMDR Act, 1957.

14. Mining / reclamation schedule shall be implemented by the user agency at their cost as per Environmental Management Plan / phased programme.

15. The user agency shall also take up study on yearly basis on soil erosion / soil flow from the over-burden areas with the help of GIS in consultation with the forest department.

16. The user agency shall take up the de-silting of the village tanks within five km area from the mine lease boundary so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks whenever required.

17. Any other condition that the Chief Conservator of Forests (central), Regional Office, Bangalore may impose from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection or development of forests.

18. All other conditions under different rules, regulations and guidelines including environmental clearance and forest rights of tribals and other forest dwellers shall be complied with.

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad is directed to take further necessary action in the matter.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

JANAKI R. KONDAPI,
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

Copy to:
The Chairman & Managing Director,
Singaerni Collieries Company Limited,
Redhills, Hyderabad.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER.